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Office of the President
April 6, 2004

Members, Board of Trustees:

JOINT BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE PROGRAM
IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING AND JOINT BACHELOR OF SCIENCE
DEGREE PROGRAM IN CIVIL ENGINEERING WITH
WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the establishment of a joint Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering and a joint Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering with Western Kentucky University, contingent upon satisfying SACS substantive change requirements.

Background: The joint-degree offerings are part of the *Strategy for Statewide Engineering Education in Kentucky*, crafted on behalf of the Presidents of the Commonwealth's public universities and adopted by the Council on Postsecondary Education on July 17, 2000, to encourage the efficient use of resources to meet the statewide demand for engineering professionals.

The Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering and Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering represent an effort by the University of Kentucky (UK) and Western Kentucky University (WKU) to offer undergraduate degrees in Mechanical Engineering and in Civil Engineering at Western Kentucky University. The programs are based on a vision of high-quality engineering education, shared by the two institutions, delivered to meet contemporary needs in that region of Kentucky.

The joint-degree programs in Mechanical Engineering and in Civil Engineering are two of three proposed joint-degree programs at Western Kentucky University; the other is a joint-degree program between the University of Louisville and WKU in Electrical Engineering. The three programs emphasize a project-oriented educational approach, which is embraced by all participating institutions. In this "integrated model," students are exposed to engineering coursework relatively early in their academic career, a feature that distinguishes these new engineering programs. UK's participation in expansion of engineering education opportunities through undergraduate joint-degree program development in western Kentucky is consistent with the mission of UK as a comprehensive, public, land-grant university dedicated to preparing

students for an increasingly diverse and technological world and to improving the lives of people throughout the Commonwealth. UK Engineering faculty will teach a minimum of 16 hours of any level engineering coursework to each student who graduates from the program. This goal is aided by the delivery of quality undergraduate engineering education to stakeholders in south-central Kentucky and portions of western Kentucky. A special state appropriation in support of the joint-degree programs has been made to the universities participating in the statewide engineering program.

This proposal has the approval of the Undergraduate Council, Senate Council and University Senate. The Provost of the University supports this recommendation.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other _____